



Electronic Waste Recycling Fee



This publication is designed to provide basic information about California's electronic waste recycling fee. If you have questions that are not answered in this publication, please contact us (see reverse).

What is the electronic waste recycling fee?

The electronic waste recycling fee applies when a retailer sells or leases certain electronic products to California consumers. Products covered by the fee include a variety of video display devices and various products that contain them.

How is the fee revenue used?

Revenues from the fee will be used to help safely recycle the types of products covered by the fee. Those products contain hazardous materials. For more on recycling of electronic products, see www.erecycle.org.

What products are covered by the fee?

The fee applies to video display screens that measure more than four inches diagonally. Items covered by the fee include cathode ray tubes (CRTs) and certain products that contain CRTs and liquid crystal displays (LCDs), such as televisions, computer monitors, and laptop computers. Plasma and LCD televisions are also covered by the fee. The various products covered by the fee are called "covered electronic devices" or "CEDs."

Some products are exempt from the fee, as explained in the next section.

For more detailed information on covered electronic devices, call the Department of Toxic Substances Control's Public and Business Liaisons at 800-728-6942 (800-72TOXIC) or see www.dtsc.ca.gov.

Products not covered by the fee

The fee does not apply when a customer purchases a video display screen that is *any* of the following:

- Used but not refurbished.
- Part of a motor vehicle, as defined in Vehicle Code section 415, or a component part of a motor vehicle assembled by or for a vehicle manufacturer or franchised dealer. This includes replacement parts for use in a motor vehicle.
- Contained within, or a part of a piece of industrial, commercial, or medical equipment, including monitoring or control equipment.
- Contained within a clothes washer, clothes dryer, refrigerator, freezer, microwave oven, other oven or range, dishwasher, room air conditioner, dehumidifier, or air purifier.

Who is required to register and collect the fee?

You generally must register, collect the fee, and pay it to us if you are a retailer who sells or leases covered electronic devices to California customers. This is true whether you sell or lease from a store, by mail order, by phone, or over the Internet.

You may keep three percent of the fees you collect. You must pay the remainder to us.

Penalties for not collecting the fee can be as high as \$5,000 per sale or lease.

For special conditions that apply if you lease to consumers, see reverse.

Registration for businesses located outside California

If you are required to have a California seller's permit, you must register for an electronic waste recycling fee account and collect the fee when you sell covered electronic products to California customers. In addition, businesses required to collect California use tax must register to collect the fee. If you are not sure whether you need to register and collect sales or use tax, see our publication 77, *Do You Need to Register in California? For Out-of-State Sellers*, or call our Information Center (see reverse).

If you're not required to collect California sales or use tax, you may wish to register and collect the fee as a courtesy to your customers. Otherwise, they must pay the fee to us. Choosing to register and collect the electronic waste recycling fee does not make you responsible for collecting or paying California use tax.

How do I register?

To register, complete and submit an *Application for Electronic Waste Recycling Fee Account* (form BOE-400-ER). See our website: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/ewaste.htm. Or you can write or call us for a copy (see reverse).

How much is the fee?

The fee ranges from \$6.00 to \$10.00 per product. It is based on the viewable size of the video display screen, measured diagonally.

BETTY T. YEE
Acting Member
1st District
San Francisco

BILL LEONARD
2nd District
Sacramento/Ontario

CLAUDE PARRISH
3rd District
Long Beach

JOHN CHIANG
4th District
Los Angeles

STEVE WESTLY
State Controller

Sacramento
RAMON J. HIRSIG
Executive Director

Fee amounts

Viewable screen size, measured diagonally	Fee
More than four inches but less than 15 inches	\$ 6.00
At least 15 inches but less than 35 inches	\$ 8.00
35 inches or more	\$10.00

Is the amount of the fee subject to sales tax?

No. Do not include the fee amount in your sales tax calculation.

What if I lease electronic devices to consumers?

If you are a retailer who leases electronic devices to consumers, you may choose to pay the electronic waste recycling fee to the vendor who sells you the devices instead of collecting it from your customers. This option is available only if *all four* of the following conditions apply:

- The vendor who sells to you is registered with us to collect and pay the electronic waste recycling fee.
- The vendor holds a valid California seller's permit.
- You pay the fee to the vendor. Your invoice from the vendor shows a separate amount for the fee you paid.
- You provide a written statement on your customer's invoice, contract, or other lease document showing that you have paid the fee for the customer.

When these conditions are met, the vendor—not the retailer or consumer—owes the fee to us and must remit it with the electronic recycling fee return.

If you make no sales and only lease covered electronic devices to consumers, and all of your transactions fit the conditions listed in the previous column, you do not need to register to collect and pay the fee.

Are any sales exempt from the fee?

The fee does not apply to the following sales:

- Sales for resale.
- Sales of products you ship directly to a location outside California, when the transaction is not subject to California sales or use tax. The fee applies if the buyer takes possession of the product in California.

When are fee payments and returns due?

Most retailers will pay the fee four times a year, using fee returns we mail to them. The fee return will cover sales made during the previous quarter.

You must file a return for the reporting period even if you do not sell any products covered by the fee during that period. You must also pay the fee even if you don't get a return from us. If you have not received a fee return within 15 days of the due date, please contact us for a return form.

Can I pay by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)?

Yes. You can pay the fees you owe using electronic funds transfers (EFTs). You'll need to file an authorization agreement with us first. For more information, see www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/speftpstd.htm.

For More Information

Electronic waste recycling fee information: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/ewaste.htm

Electronic waste recycling information: www.ecycle.org

Board website and Member contact information: www.boe.ca.gov

Information Center: 800-400-7115

TDD/TTY: 800-735-2929

Representatives are available to help you from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Pacific time; M-F, except state holidays.

Electronic Waste Recycling Fee Section

Call us at 916-341-6906.

Or write to us at

Electronic Waste Recycling Fee
Section: MIC:88
State Board of Equalization
PO Box 942879
Sacramento, CA 94279-0088

Taxpayers' Rights Advocate. Call toll-free if you need help with a disagreement you have not been able to resolve through routine channels: 888-324-2798.

Note: The statements in this fact sheet are general and current as of January 2006. The law and regulations are complex and subject to change. If there is a conflict between this publication and the law or regulations, decisions will be based on the law and regulations.